

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3076

To amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to support small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2025

Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. BAIRD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to support small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Local
5 Processing Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HACCP GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR SMALLER**
 2 **AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND MEAT ES-**
 3 **TABLISHMENTS.**

4 (a) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Prod-
 5 ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section
 6 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

7 **“SEC. 14A. SMALLER AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT**
 8 **GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) The term ‘covered establishment’ means—

11 “(A) a smaller establishment; and

12 “(B) a very small establishment.

13 “(2) The terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
 14 ‘very small establishment’ have the meanings given
 15 those terms in the final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Re-
 16 duction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
 17 (HACCP) Systems’ and published in the Federal
 18 Register by the Department of Agriculture on July
 19 25, 1996 (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 et seq.).

20 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
 21 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
 22 section, the Secretary shall—

23 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
 24 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
 25 covered establishments subject to inspection under

1 this Act for use in developing a Hazard Analysis and
2 Critical Control Points plan; and

3 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
4 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans
5 for covered establishments, including model plans
6 for—

7 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

8 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

9 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
10 ments.

11 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
13 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
14 for public comment, providing information on the require-
15 ments that need to be met for covered establishments to
16 receive approval for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Con-
17 trol Points plan pursuant to this Act.

18 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
19 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
20 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-
21 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establish-
22 ment.”.

23 (b) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-
24 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21
25 U.S.C. 625) the following:

1 **“SEC. 26. SMALLER AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT**
2 **GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘covered establishment’ means—

5 “(A) a smaller establishment; and

6 “(B) a very small establishment.

7 “(2) The terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
8 ‘very small establishment’ have the meanings given
9 those terms in the final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Re-
10 duction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
11 (HACCP) Systems’ and published in the Federal
12 Register by the Department of Agriculture on July
13 25, 1996 (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 et seq.).

14 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
15 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
16 section, the Secretary shall—

17 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
18 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
19 covered establishments subject to inspection under
20 this Act for use in developing a Hazard Analysis and
21 Critical Control Points plan; and

22 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
23 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans
24 for covered establishments, including model plans
25 for—

26 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

1 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

2 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
3 ments.

4 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
5 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
6 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
7 for public comment, providing information on the require-
8 ments that need to be met for covered establishments to
9 receive approval for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Con-
10 trol Points plan pursuant to this Act.

11 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
12 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
13 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-
14 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establish-
15 ment.”.

16 **SEC. 3. INCREASING MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE FOR EX-**
17 **PENSES OF STATE INSPECTION.**

18 (a) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 5(a)(3) of the
19 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454(a)(3)) is
20 amended in the second sentence by striking “50 per cen-
21 tum” and inserting “65 percent”.

22 (b) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section
23 301(a)(3) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
24 661(a)(3)) is amended in the second sentence by striking
25 “50 per centum” and inserting “65 percent”.

1 **SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF POUL-**
2 **TRY AND MEAT.**

3 (a) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 31 of the Poultry
4 Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 em-
7 ployees” each place it appears and inserting
8 “50 employees”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
11 ing “25” and inserting “50”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
13 “25” and inserting “50”; and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (I) in clause (i), by striking
16 “more than 25 employees but less
17 than 35 employees” and inserting
18 “more than 50 employees but less
19 than 70 employees”; and

20 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
21 “subsection (i)” and inserting “sub-
22 section (j)”;

23 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “60 percent”
24 and inserting “80 percent”;

25 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “subsection
26 (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i)
2 as subsections (g) through (j), respectively; and

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years
7 2026 through 2031, for the purpose of State partici-
8 pation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment pro-
9 gram under this section, the Secretary shall conduct
10 outreach to, and, as appropriate, subsequent nego-
11 tiation with, not fewer than 25 percent of the States
12 that—

13 “(A) have a State poultry product inspec-
14 tion program pursuant to section 5; but

15 “(B) do not have a selected establishment.

16 “(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fis-
17 cal years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary shall
18 submit a report detailing the activities and results of
19 the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under
20 paragraph (1) to—

21 “(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the
22 House of Representatives;

23 “(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
24 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

1 “(C) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
2 Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
3 tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee
4 on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
5 tives; and

6 “(D) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
7 Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
8 tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee
9 on Appropriations of the Senate.”.

10 (b) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section
11 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683)
12 is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 em-
15 ployees” each place it appears and inserting
16 “50 employees”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
19 ing “25” and inserting “50”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “25” and inserting “50”; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by strik-
23 ing “more than 25 employees but less than
24 35 employees” and inserting “more than
25 50 employees but less than 70 employees”;

1 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “60 percent”
2 and inserting “80 percent”; and

3 (3) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(3) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years
7 2026 through 2031, for the purpose of State
8 participation in the Cooperative Interstate Ship-
9 ment program under this section, the Secretary
10 shall conduct outreach to, and, as appropriate,
11 subsequent negotiation with, not fewer than 25
12 percent of the States that—

13 “(i) have a State meat inspection pro-
14 gram pursuant to section 301; but

15 “(ii) do not have a selected establish-
16 ment.

17 “(B) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each
18 of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Sec-
19 retary shall submit a report detailing the activi-
20 ties and results of the outreach conducted dur-
21 ing that fiscal year under subparagraph (A)
22 to—

23 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture of
24 the House of Representatives;

1 “(ii) the Committee on Agriculture,
2 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

3 “(iii) the Subcommittee on Agri-
4 culture, Rural Development, Food and
5 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
6 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
7 the House of Representatives; and

8 “(iv) the Subcommittee on Agri-
9 culture, Rural Development, Food and
10 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
11 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
12 the Senate.”.

13 **SEC. 5. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
15 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 **“SEC. 210B. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
20 tity’ means—

21 “(A) a covered establishment (as defined in
22 section 26 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act);

23 “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-
24 lishment subject to—

1 “(i) a State meat inspection program
2 pursuant to section 301 of the Federal
3 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

4 “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-
5 tion program pursuant to section 5 of the
6 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21
7 U.S.C. 454);

8 “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-
9 ations that is exempt from inspection under—

10 “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat
11 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

12 “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-
13 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

14 “(D) a person seeking—

15 “(i) to establish and operate an estab-
16 lishment described in subparagraph (A) or
17 (B); or

18 “(ii) to engage in custom operations
19 described in subparagraph (C).

20 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
22 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

23 “(b) GRANTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
25 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-

1 retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-
2 ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-
3 sification of the meat processing system, including
4 activities that—

5 “(A) support the health and safety of meat
6 and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-
7 tomers;

8 “(B) support increased processing capac-
9 ity; and

10 “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the
11 small meat and poultry processing sector.

12 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
13 amount of a grant awarded under this section shall
14 not exceed \$500,000.

15 “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
16 under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

17 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
19 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
21 and containing such information as the Secretary
22 may require.

23 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
24 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-

1 cation process for eligible entities applying for a
2 grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

3 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-
4 sure that any application for a grant under this sec-
5 tion is—

6 “(A) simple and practicable;

7 “(B) accessible online; and

8 “(C) available through local staff of the
9 Department of Agriculture.

10 “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before
11 the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-
12 plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
13 publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect
14 to the grants available under this section.

15 “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an
16 eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the
17 Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised
18 application.

19 “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-
20 mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall
21 give priority to proposals that will—

22 “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to
23 animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-
24 dius of the location of the farmer or rancher; or

1 “(B) support an eligible entity described in
2 subsection (a)(1)(A).

3 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives
4 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
5 carry out activities in support of the purposes described
6 in subsection (b)(1), including through—

7 “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard
8 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-
9 gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

10 “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-
11 ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-
12 ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply
13 with applicable requirements under the Federal
14 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the
15 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et
16 seq.);

17 “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or
18 transportation services;

19 “(4) the purchase of temperature screening
20 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-
21 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,
22 and other sanitizing supplies;

23 “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-
24 sonal protective equipment;

1 “(6) the construction or purchase of humane
2 handling infrastructure, including holding space for
3 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and
4 knock box structures;

5 “(7) the provision of staff time and training for
6 implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-
7 cedures;

8 “(8) the development of a feasibility study or
9 business plan for, or the carrying out of any other
10 activity associated with, establishing or expanding a
11 small meat or poultry processing facility;

12 “(9) the purchase of equipment that enables the
13 further use or value-added sale of coproducts or by-
14 products, such as organs, hides, and other relevant
15 products; and

16 “(10) other activities associated with expanding
17 or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-
18 section (a)(1)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

19 “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on
20 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under
21 subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-
22 retary begins to accept applications under subsection
23 (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and
24 eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

25 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 the Federal share of the activities carried out using
3 a grant awarded under this section shall not ex-
4 ceed—

5 “(A) 90 percent in the case of a grant in
6 the amount of \$100,000 or less; or

7 “(B) 75 percent in the case of a grant in
8 an amount greater than \$100,000.

9 “(2) FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—An eligible
10 entity awarded a grant under this section during fis-
11 cal year 2025 or 2026 shall not be required to pro-
12 vide non-Federal matching funds with respect to the
13 grant.

14 “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-
15 tions under, and administration of, this section shall be
16 made without regard to—

17 “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-
18 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

19 “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
20 (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction
21 Act’).

22 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agri-
24 culture to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of
25 fiscal years 2026 through 2031.”.

1 **SEC. 6. LOCAL MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING TRAINING**
 2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 4 Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting
 5 before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

6 **“SEC. 403. LOCAL MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING TRAIN-**
 7 **ING PROGRAMS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
 10 SITIES.—The term ‘land-grant colleges and univer-
 11 sities’ has the meaning given the term in section
 12 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
 13 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 14 3103).

15 “(2) COVERED ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
 16 ‘covered establishment’ has the meaning given such
 17 term in section 26 of the Federal Meat Inspection
 18 Act.

19 “(3) STRUCTURED APPRENTICESHIP.—The
 20 term ‘structured apprenticeship’ means an appren-
 21 ticeship program that—

22 “(A) provides most of the training on the
 23 job in a meat or poultry processing facility;

24 “(B) describes in detail—

1 “(i) all of the competencies necessary
2 to work in a meat or poultry processing fa-
3 cility; and

4 “(ii) the competencies that are nec-
5 essary to own and operate a meat or poul-
6 try processing facility that is a covered es-
7 tablishment;

8 “(C) describes the level of knowledge, skill,
9 and ability the apprentice ought to attain in
10 each competency;

11 “(D) includes a component for someone
12 other than the trainer—

13 “(i) to assess competency attainment;
14 and

15 “(ii) to assure that all competencies
16 are being addressed during the apprentice-
17 ship;

18 “(E) includes an individualized plan for
19 each apprentice that—

20 “(i) considers prior knowledge, skill,
21 and ability; and

22 “(ii) allows for apprentices to opt out
23 of competencies irrelevant to their career
24 goals; and

1 “(F) focuses on individuals who will work
2 in or operate meat or poultry processing facili-
3 ties that are covered establishments.

4 “(b) INSTITUTIONAL CAREER TRAINING PRO-
5 GRAMS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
7 competitive grants to junior or community colleges,
8 technical or vocational schools, nonprofit organiza-
9 tions, worker training centers, and land-grant col-
10 leges and universities to establish or expand career
11 training programs relating to meat and poultry proc-
12 essing.

13 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
14 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-
15 cation and reporting process for entities described in
16 paragraph (1) applying for a grant under this sub-
17 section of not more than \$100,000.

18 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
20 retary to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for
21 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

22 “(c) PROCESSOR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
24 competitive grants to covered establishments to es-
25 tablish or expand career training programs, includ-

1 ing for structured apprenticeships, relating to meat
2 and poultry processing.

3 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
4 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-
5 cation and reporting process for entities described in
6 paragraph (1) applying for a grant under this sub-
7 section of not more than \$100,000.

8 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
10 retary to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for
11 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

○